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everywhere known as products of the "Lincoln Schools of Science."

It is the opinion of this academy that by so designating these schools, while an immaterial and uncostly honor would be conferred on the greatest American citizen, such honor would be likely to be more influential and more durable in the perpetuation of his memory than the expenditure of large sums of money in material monuments of any kind.

#### FIRST AWARD OF THE LANGLEY MEDAL

THE first award of the gold medal recently established by the Smithsonian Institution in memory of the late Secretary Samuel Pierpont Langley and his contributions to the science of aerodromics is made to Wilbur and Orville Wright. The board of regents of the institution has adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Langley medal be awarded to Wilbur and Orville Wright for advancing the science of aerodromics in its application to aviation, by their successful investigations and demonstrations of the practicability of mechanical flight by man."

Following the establishment of the Langley medal, Secretary Walcott appointed the following-named gentlemen of known competence in the subject of aerodromics as a committee on award, announcement of which is hereby made: Mr. Octave Chanute, of Chicago, Chairman; Dr. Alexander Graham Bell; Major George O. Squier, U. S. A.; Mr. John A. Brashear, of Allegheny, Pa., and Mr. James Means, formerly editor of *The Aeronautical Annual*, Boston. The Langley Medal was founded "to be awarded for specially meritorious investigations in connection with the science of aerodromics and its application to aviation." The original design to be used for this medal was made by Mon. J. C. Chaplain, of Paris, a member of the French Academy. The medal bears on its obverse a female figure, seated on the globe, carrying a torch in her left hand and in her right a scroll emblematic of knowledge and the words "Per Orbem." The reverse is adapted from the seal of the institution as designed by Augustus St. Gaudens, the special inscription being inserted in the cen-

ter instead of the map of the world. It is about three inches in diameter.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Astronomical Society of the Pacific awarded its Bruce gold medal for the year 1909 to Dr. G. W. Hill for distinguished services to astronomy.

THE eminent mathematician, M. Henri Poincaré, was officially received on January 28 into the French Academy, taking the seat vacant by the death of the poet Sully Prudhomme. M. Frédéric Masson, the historian of Napoleon, made the address of welcome.

LORD RAYLEIGH, who left England with Lady Rayleigh for a six months' tour around the world, has been seriously ill in South Africa, but is now better. He has given up his plan of going to Australia, and will probably finish the winter in Egypt.

THE celebration of Haeckel's seventy-fifth birthday was held in Jena on February 16. As a gift from the American Museum of Natural History to the Phyletic Museum Professor Osborn has sent a series of the large reproductions of Charles R. Knight's restorations of the extinct vertebrates of North America.

DR. S. WEIR MITCHELL celebrated his eightieth birthday on February 15.

PROFESSOR RAMON Y CAJAL, the anatomist, has been created a senator of Spain.

M. LOUIS MANGIN has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in the section of botany, to succeed M. Van Tieghem, who has been elected permanent secretary.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM Z. RIPLEY, of Harvard University, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, in recognition of his researches in the field of European and American demography.

PORTRAITS of Professor George J. Brush and of Professor William H. Brewer have been hung in the recently fitted-up faculty room of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University. Professor Brush and Professor